(d) whether candidates are given TA/DA and boarding/lodging facilities;

(e) in what language the examination papers are set/conducted;

(f) whether in the recent recruitment to 4,700 Group 'D' post in South Western Railway, most of the prescribed requirements were not compiled with/violated for the benefit of candidates from one particular region; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Age limit: 18-33 years as on date for a general category, 36 for other backward class, 38 for Scheduled Castes (SC) Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidate;

Qualification: 8th class pass; Physical Standards: Male candidates should be able to run for a distance of 1500 meters in six minutes whereas female candidates should be able to run for a distance of 400 meters in three minutes in one chance; Experience: Nil and Pay Scale: Rs.2550-3200/Rs. 2610-3540.

(b) Recruitment to group D' posts are made at zonal level.

(c) Yes, Sir. Wide scale advertisement is a prequisite requirement in light of guidelines circulated by Department of Personnel & Training (which is the nodal department) pursuant to the directive of Honble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Excise Superintendent, Malkapatnam, Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh v/s K.B.N. Visveshwara Rao & others.

(d) No, Sir. Only candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) are given free travel facility from place of their residence to examination centre and back.

(e) Hindi, English and official language(s) contained in VIII Schedule of Constitution of India and prevalent in the area of recruitment

(0 No, Sir. All the requirements were complied with.

(g) Does not arise.

Reflectors, underpasses and hooting mechanism in trains

910. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some elephants were run over by the running trains on Daitari-Banspani line in Orissa which is a major corridor for elephants;

(b) whether to control such loss, the wildlife experts have recommended reflectors, underpasses and hooting mechanism in trains;

(c) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has made some suggestions to control such losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the action plan of Government to addres this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been one incidence when two elephants were hit on 18-09-07 on Daitari-Banspani line in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Contractors' labourers

911. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contractors' labourers engaged in Railways are being deprived of statutory benefits, namely minimum wages, overtime allowances, P.F., medical allowances, etc.; and

(b) whether there is any machinery in Railways to check that contractors fulfil their statutory obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The contract labour engaged by the Railways are not deprived of statutory benefits under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(b) Indian Railways as Principal Employer ensures fulfilling of statutory obligations by the contractors.

Diversion of train routes

912. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKARREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trains are being diverted in some other routes in Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh contradicting to the earlier announcements of the routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the present routes of railway in Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) what are the railway stations upgraded in Telangana region during the last three years, station-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following 10 rail routes are located in the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh:

(i) Khammam-Dornakal-Warangal-Sirpur Town (Balharshad route)

(ii) Hyderabad-Secunderabad-Nawandgi (Wadi route)

(iii) Secunderabad-Vikarabad-Matalkunta (Bidar route)

(iv) Bibinagar-Vishnupuram (Miryalguda route)